

SRFB 2006 Programmatic Funding, Item 7

PCSRF Phase II performance measurements and related data system

Support may be needed to address programming or staff assistance for the reporting system for PCSRF¹ funds. Requested funding amounts are unknown at this time; discussions with NOAA and the other PCSRF states will continue.

Washington has been a leader with NOAA in designing and implementing the performance measurement reporting system for these federal funds. As the federal reporting system matures, it has become evident that needs for very complex data reporting will continue. Although Washington's PRISM-based system² has been helpful in addressing many of NOAA's requests, all the states need a more efficient reporting method between the states and NOAA. For Washington, some additional programming or other system support may be needed.

Attached is a copy of page 2 of the March 7, 2006 award letter for Federal Fiscal 2006 funds, from NOAA Regional Administrator Bob Lohn, specifically identifying possible PCSRF data needs.

¹ PCSRF – Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, the term applied to the federal funds for West Coast salmon recovery.

² PRISM is the computer system in the Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). PRISM is used for all aspects of project management and data collection for all IAC and SRFB projects and grants.

regional recovery plans. Final Recovery Plans will serve to identify and prioritize where PCSRF investments can best be made to target the habitat factors limiting recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

Please be aware that the PCSRF program is being subjected to several reviews this year. In addition to going through OMB's "Program Assessment Rating Tool" (PART) which will be reported in the President's FY2008 Budget Request in February 2007, we have an independent review underway and are scheduled for a DOC/NOAA Management Control review. The independent review is necessary for OMB's PART exercise. Also, there are financial audit reviews continuing by the DOC Inspector General. With the PCSRF Performance Framework (copy enclosed) that we have cooperatively developed over the course of two PCSRF meetings and many conference calls, we now have a standard to compare program performance against so we shouldn't have that issue as an obstacle in these reviews. We do want to especially thank Bruce Crawford for his participation in the development of performance framework. If you have any additional comments on the enclosed framework, please let us know ASAP as it is being used for the PART review currently underway, as well as the performance reporting in the 2006 Report to Congress. We ask that projects considered for FY2006 PCSRF funds be evaluated relative to their contribution to the PCSRF performance goals in the framework.

Data quality and completeness in the PCSRF database has become a critical component of the PCSRF program as it is the coastwide inventory of performance metrics and the basis for measuring program performance. As you are aware, Congress and OMB have stipulated that NOAA Fisheries Service must measure and report performance on the PCSRF program. Thus, it is essential that accurate project data be entered into the PCSRF database on a timely basis. The initiation of the quarterly validation reports is revealing areas where data quality reviews are necessary. NOAA Fisheries Service urges PCSRF grant recipients to focus necessary staff or secure additional staff to address PCSRF data input and quality issues. The use of PCSRF funds for this purpose is appropriate.

In accordance with our MOU, the PRISM database should be downloaded into the PCSRF database after each round of SRFB project selection, and at least quarterly to include completed project updates. The PCSRF database validation report should be run each quarter and downloaded into an Excel spreadsheet for reporting. The website URL for you to access your validation report is:

<http://webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pcsrReports.asp?fiscal=yes&a=s857730907b>. This spreadsheet can serve as your grant award progress report.

The PCSRF program continues the goal to have at least 10% of the PCSRF funds dedicated to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) projects with emphasis on effectiveness monitoring for habitat restoration projects. It is essential that M&E efforts be structured to validate the effectiveness of various habitat restoration efforts in increasing salmon productivity and survival. In the near